

23 June 1954

TO: Mr. Wieland

FROM: : Guatemalan Governmental Air Action

1. We received tonight (23 June) a message from Guatemala City which contained information obtained by Ambassador Peurifoy from a source evaluated C-3 to the effect that Coban (sic) was bombed by the government; pilots were supposed to hit Panzica, (one of the places reportedly held by the Armed forces) but lost their nerve and went to Coban instead; that two of the bombs were duds and that one worked; and that the bombs were probably those dropped by Socorras (Cuban ex-president recently involved in arms procurement efforts) once gave to the Guatemalan government.
2. We presume that the Ambassador has forwarded this same information via his own channel to the State Department, and we would like to know whether he reported it in similar form and especially whether he reported the town as Coban. We would also like to call your attention to this report of Guatemalan Governmental Air Operations in light of the Guatemalan Government's claim of today, June 23 (which appeared on one of the wire service tickers) that they had no Air Force capable of taking the air and accordingly that any claim that they had been responsible for the bombing of Santa Rosa de Copan was absurd.

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